

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

INTERAGENCY CLASSIFICATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

Referral to NSC Not Required

26 February 1973

The Honorable Lawrence R. Houston
General Counsel
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Larry:

I have received your letter of 13 February and have gone over the parts of the draft quarterly report forms that seem to give you trouble. I find your arguments unpersuasive and have asked Dick Tufaro to go ahead with preparation in final form for distribution. Justice, State, Defense, AEC, NSC, and Archivist have concurred, except for the matter of publication in the Federal Register, which the Committee will discuss.

It seems that the basic difference in our views is in the interpretation of the word "oversee." Obviously the Committee must take the word of the Departments on practically all matters (unless they break in the press through leaks). However, receiving periodic assurances that all have been good boys does not seem adequate.

In view of CIA's unimpressive track record regarding compliance with the spirit of the President's Executive Order #11652, I cannot help being even more convinced that your organization does not actually believe that the President means business. I am not the least bit appreciative of your distributing your views to other Departments in such detail, including your letter to me, especially since you invite their response directly to you. While you doubtless have a right technically to do so, such action smacks of an attempt to organize a cabal to render the ICRC a mere debating society.

A substantial element of our diverging views is now a matter between the White House and the Director of Central Intelligence. We will both, of course, be guided by the outcome of that pending matter.

Sincerely,

John Eisenhower